Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /052 W

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R 250500Z AUG 75 FM AMEMBASSY SUVA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4266 INFOR AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS SUVA 941

WELLLINGTON FOR AMBASSADOR

E .O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRN, FJ

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER ON U.S. AIR SERVICE TO FIJI

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 21 PRIME MINISTER RATU SIR KAMISESE MARA SAID FIJI WOULD WELCOME ADDITIONAL U.S. FLAG AIR SERVICE THROUGH FIJI, INCLUDING SERVICE BETWEEN PAGO PAGO AND NADI. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPTED FROM TRANSCRIPT:

PM: ... I MYSELF HAVE TAKEN IT ON MY OWN TO SPEAK TO THE PAN AM PEOPLE IN HONOLULU, TO PASS THE MESSAGE ON TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS THAT WE WILL BE CONSIDERING FAVORABLY ANY INCREASES IN THE FREQUENCY OF FLIGHTS INTO FIJI. ALSO, IF THEY WISH TO TAKE UP AGAIN PAGO PAGO-NADI FLIGHT, WE WILL CONSIDER THAT VERY FAVORABLY.

QEUSTION: I GATHER THREE OR FOUR OTHER U.S. AIRLINES NOW HAVE EYES DOWN THIS DIRECTION ... NATIONAL, CONTINENTAL...

PM: I HEARD THAT HAWAIIAN AIRLINES ARE ALSO THINKING OF PUTTING A DAYLIGHT FLIGHT FROM HONOLULU TO PAGO PAGO.

QUESTION: WOULD GOVERNMENT BE HAPPY TO SEE ANOTHER U.S. AIRLINE COME IN?

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PM: YES. I THINK WE ARE IN A STAGE NOW OF WELCOMING ANY

AIRLINE TO COME TO FIJI, BECAUSE WE WANT VISITORS AND IF WE CAN GET IT FROM THE PRESENT AIRLINES WE MUST GET IT FROM OTHER AIRLINES.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS OF JAPAN AIRLINES COMING?

PM: I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FURTHER BUT THERE WAS AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WILL BE COMING THROUGH TO DISCUSS RIGHTS BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. UNQUOTE. HALL

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To: STATE WELLINGTON

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